

Town of



Amherst Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

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October 16, 2017

The Most Honorable Mayor Yoshiichi Takahashi
Town of Kanegasaki
22-1 Minamimachi Nishine
Kanegasaki Isawa
Iwate 029-4592
Japan

Re: Kanegasaki-Amherst Sister City Relationship

Dear Honorable Mayor Takahashi:

My name is Douglas Slaughter and I am the new Chair of the Select Board of the Town of Amherst. I would like to extend my warm wishes to you and hope that you are in the best of health and spirits.

First, I would like to offer my sincere apologies for the long delay in replying to your kind letter of March 19, 2017. I am grateful for your enthusiasm about our sister city relationship and your commitment to strengthen the bonds of friendship between our communities.

As you mention in your letter, the annual visit of junior-high students from Kanegasaki and other exchanges that have taken place over the years have indeed enriched each of our communities immeasurably. The opportunity for Amherst area families to host Japanese students and for American and Japanese youth to interact with each other is invaluable in promoting cross-cultural understanding and educational exchange.

We are committed to strengthening our sister city relationship and welcome a discussion on future exchanges as well as planning for our 25th anniversary celebration. We also would very much welcome a delegation from Kanegasaki at a mutually convenient time.

I would like to thank you for your patience in waiting for our reply and look forward to meeting you in person sometime in the near future.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Slaughter
Chair